



Travis County Emergency Management

Nov. 12, 2015

Volunteers needed in flood-damaged areas ***Assistance and information available to Travis County residents***

The number of properties in Travis County affected by the most recent flood is now 350 (500 households in Austin and Travis County combined), and the need for volunteers is growing during this declared local state of disaster. According to Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR), the latest number of damaged properties in Travis County is:

Properties with major damage–161
Properties with minor damage–170
Affected properties–19

Updates to these numbers and Travis County flood information is posted at: www.traviscountytexas.gov/flood. According to the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), major damage is 1 or more feet of water in a mobile home or 5 feet or more of water in a site-built structure. Minor damage is less than a foot in a mobile and less than 5 feet in a site-built structure.

Travis County, the City of Austin, and partners have opened a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) operating until Sunday, Nov. 15, with check in from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily at Crossroads Christian House of Prayer, located at 5201 East William Cannon Dr. to coordinate volunteer operations. (Check updated hours of operation at: <http://austintexas.gov/howtohelp>, especially for Sunday in case of rain.)

Volunteers must be 18 or older, should wear closed shoes and proper clothing, and bring debris-cleanup tools (shovels, wheel barrels, etc.) if they have them. Some tools are available at the VRC.

At the VRC, volunteers will:

- Complete a registration form and sign a general release of liability statement.
- Participate in a safety briefing.

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- Agree in writing to follow all safety instructions and directions from supervisors at their work sites.
- Receive volunteer assignments for the day.

For more information about volunteering, go to: <http://austintexas.gov/howtohelp>. For other ways to help flood survivors, visit: www.traviscountytexas.gov/flood.

Flood Information Center and Shelter

The Flood Assistance Center (FAC), at Dove Springs Recreation Center, 5801 Ainez Drive, will remain open to support flood survivors in Travis County and Austin until Saturday, Nov. 14, or longer if needed. The FAC hours of operation are from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. through Saturday, Nov. 14. During the coming week, some services offered at the FAC will transition to regular service locations. Information about service locations will be available at the FAC or by dialing 3-1-1 or 512-974-2000.

Dittmar Rec Center, at 1009 West Dittmar Road, remains open to shelter residents from Travis County and Austin. For Travis County residents, representatives at the FAC may also assist in finding accommodations for flood survivors without a place to stay.

County Permits

Removing the wet materials from homes or businesses does not require permits. A County permit is required to repair the damage to structures. Applications can be made anytime online at www.MyPermitNow.org or during business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 700 Lavaca 5th floor, Austin 78701. In addition, permit staff will be at the Dove Springs Rec Center.

Buyout Information

For information on Travis County voluntary floodplain buyout, visit the FAC, or call 512-854-6613 to schedule a time to meet with a representative. Travis County representatives are located at the FAC. Travis County currently has no funds for a new buy-out program, but TNR would still like interested parties to complete an application in case funds become available.

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